

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 07896 062240Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 BIB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8064

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BONN 07896

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, GW

SUBJECT: RFE/RL

1. AT AMBASSADOR'S LUNCHEON YESTERDAY FOR RETIRING RFE/RL GENERAL MANAGER KEN SCOTT, REDLICH (RFE/RL PR CHIEF) REPORTED THAT CDU DEPUTY HUPKA HAD TOLD HIM THAT A NEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON RADIOS WOULD BE FORMED IN THE BUNDESTAG. THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL FUNCTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. HUPKA WILL BE CHAIRMAN AND MATTICK (SPD) WILL BE VICE CHAIRMAN. THE MAIN FOCUS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S INTEREST WILL BE THE GERMAN RADIOS WHICH BROADCAST TO THE EAST. IT WILL ALSO TAKE A STRONG INTEREST IN RFE/RL.

2. HUPKA IS A LONG TIME SUPPORTER OF RFE/RL. HE INTENDS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE RADIO TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR IT IN THE BUNDESTAG. ONE EARLY ITEM OF BUSINESS, FOR EXAMPLE, WILL BE VISIT BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO RADIO HEADQUARTERS IN MUNICH.

3. COMMENT: THE FORMATION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE PRESENTS US WITH BOTH AN OPPORTUNITY AND A POSSIBLE PROBLEM.

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THE OPPORTUNITY IS CLEAR: THE GREATER THE EXPOSURE OF BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES TO THE RADIO, THE MORE THEY WILL UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT THE RADIO'S ROLE. THE POSSIBLE PROBLEM IS ALSO CLEAR: THE OPPOSITION, SPECIFICALLY HUPKA, WILL USE THE SUBCOMMITTEE AS A PLATFORM TO CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT. THE RECENT CONTROVERSY OVER ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES AT DEUTSCHE WELLE IS A SIGN OF

WHAT WE CAN EXPECT. THE FACT THAT CSCE AND
HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WILL BE IN THE LIMELIGHT THIS YEAR
WILL GIVE THE OPPOSITION NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES TO
ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY. IN THIS SITUATION,
RFE/RL FACES A DELICATE TASK. IT WILL WANT TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THE CREATION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO
INCREASE SUPPORT FOR RFE/RL WITHOUT, AT THE SAME TIME,
GETTING INVOLVED IN THE INEVITABLE PARTISAN POLITICS
WHICH WILL SURROUND THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S WORK. THE
RADIO IS FULLY AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM.
STOESSEL

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Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: ETEL, GE, RFE
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